



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims

— Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance claims
remained highly elevated but decreased by 14.3 percent during the latest filing week —

RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the total number of initial claims filed from mid-March through the May 16, 2020 filing week neared eighteen percent of pre-pandemic, nonfarm employment, according to figures released today.

For the filing week ending May 16, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 44,699. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 7,440 claimants from the previous week. The weekly total was the lowest since before the initial spike in unemployment insurance claims during the March 21 filing week.

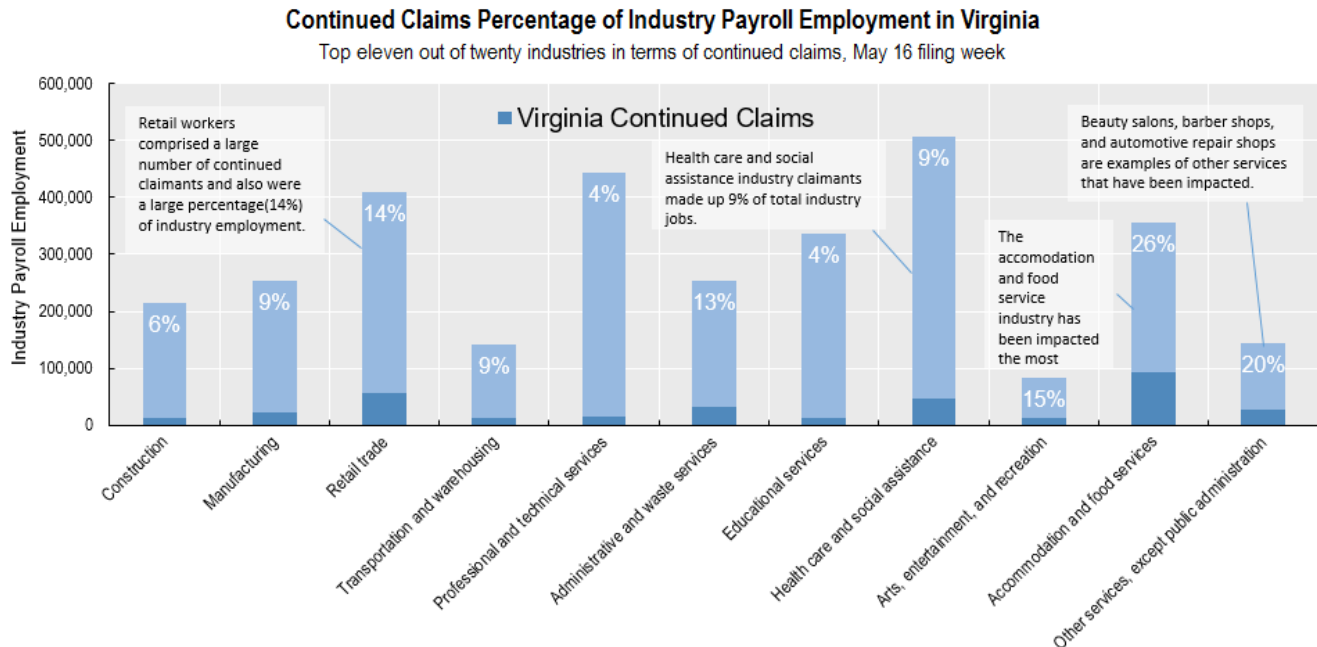
For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 403,557, up 2.8% from the previous week and 385,380 higher than the 18,177 continued claims from the comparable week last year. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus far, continued claims during the May 16 filing equaled 56% of all initial claims filed during the pandemic. This percentage was a significant drop-off from the previous week.

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According to preliminary figures from the May 16 filing week, the accommodation and food service sector, which includes hotels and restaurants, continued to see the greatest percentage of continued claims for unemployment benefits (92,688 of those reporting). This reflects impacts of public health and safety measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, claimants in that industry comprised over a quarter of pre-pandemic payroll employment. Many continued claims also came from workers in retail trade (14% of industry employment) and health care and social assistance (9% of industry employment) during the week of May 16. 28,543 claimants work in small service businesses like barbershops and automotive repair shops, which are classified in the other services industry.



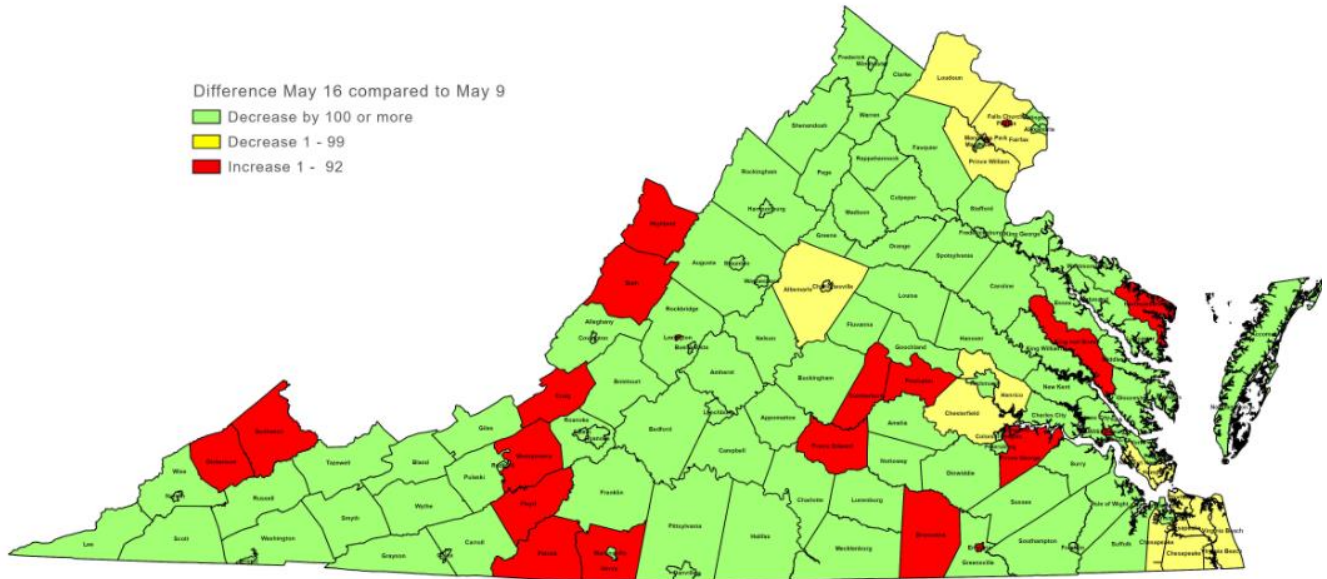
Sources: The Virginia Employment Commission. Claims totals do not represent all claims and won't sum to state totals. Total employment source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 3Q19. Industry totals do not include nonemployers and other non-payroll workers.

For additional information on who is claiming unemployment insurance in Virginia, access the VEC's [U.I. claims data dashboard](https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard) (<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard>) that is updated no later than the following Monday after the weekly claims press release.

Nationwide, the number of seasonally adjusted initial claims totaled 2,438,000, a decrease of 249,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 294,000 from 2,981,000 to 2,687,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 2,174,329 in the week ending May 16, a decrease of 182,265 (or -7.7 percent) from the previous week. In addition, for the week ending May 16, 35 states reported 2,226,921 initial claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Most states showed decreases in the most recent week. While twelve reported weekly increases, nine of those were under 1,000. Looking at advance-issue, seasonally unadjusted numbers, the top three increases in initial claims for the week ending May 16 were in Washington (+34,397), California (+33,448), and New York (+27,102). Virginia's weekly change was the 14th largest decline among states.

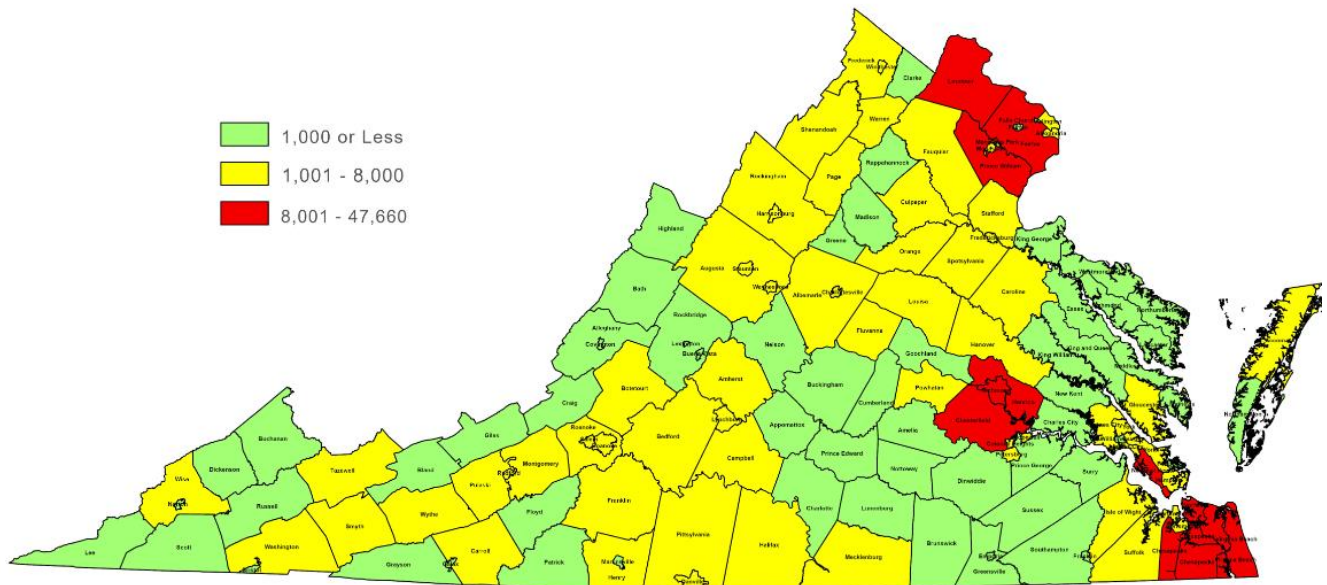
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Initial Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City Weeks Ending May 16, 2020 Over May 9, 2020 Change



Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2020

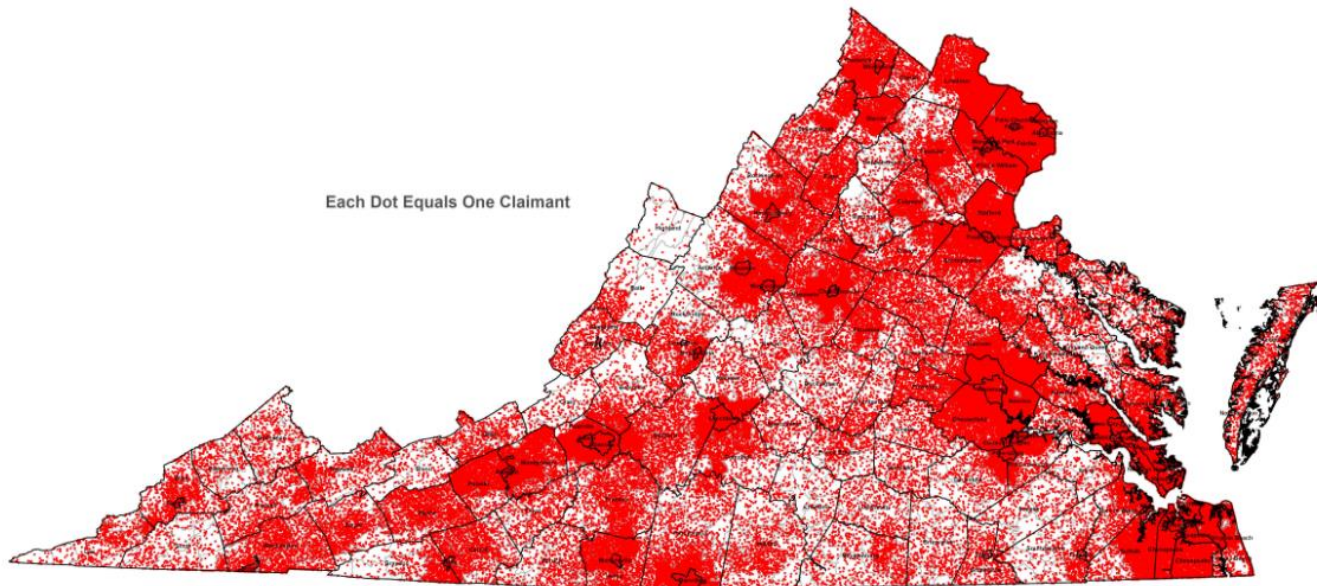
Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City Week Ending May 16, 2020



Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2020

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Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants Week Ending May 16, 2020

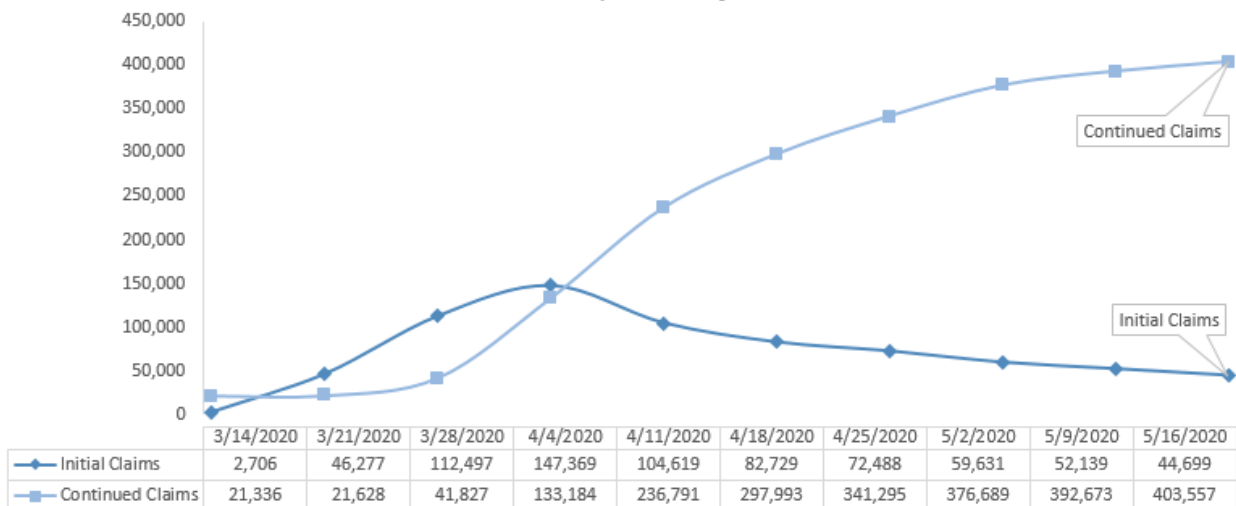


Continued Unemployment Claims data were summed by zip code area. The dots do not show precise locations within the zip code area.

Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2020

Virginia Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

March 14 - May 16, 2020 Filing Weeks



Source: The Virginia Employment Commission. Not seasonally adjusted.